

Spotlight on Williamsburg . . .

Williamsburg County was probably named for King William III of England (1650-1702). Scotch-Irish and French Huguenot settlers began moving into this part of the lowcountry around 1732, and in 1736, the township of Williamsburg was laid out on the Black River near the settlement of Kingstree. This area was part of Prince Frederick Parish, which in turn was part of the Georgetown District. In 1804, Williamsburg became a separate district, with the seat at Kingstree. During the Revolutionary War, many of General Francis Marion's men hailed from this area, including Major John James (1732-1791). The battles of Black Mingo (September 28-29, 1780), Mount Hope Swamp (March 1781), and Lower Bridge (March 1781) were all fought in Williamsburg County. In later years, the county has remained primarily an agricultural region. Nobel Prize-winning geneticist Joseph L. Goldstein (b. 1940) grew up in the town of Kingstree.

Kingstree Workforce Center

530 Martin L. King Jr., Avenue, P O Box 727
Kingstree, SC 29556
(843) 354-7436 / FAX: (843) 354-9620

Location & Climate

- Located in the eastern area of the state
- Surrounded by Florence, Marion, Georgetown, Berkeley, and Clarendon counties
- This region has an average temperature of 63.8 degrees with an annual average rainfall of 47.6 inches.

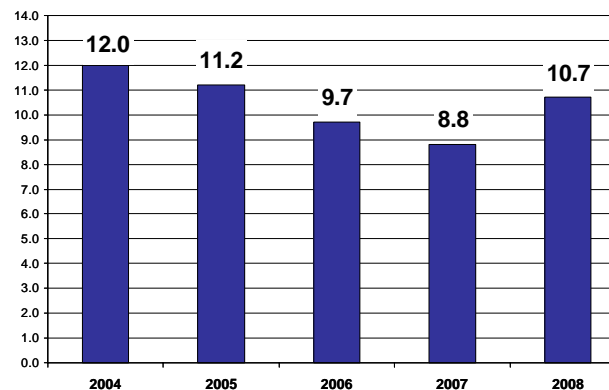
Population

- Was 35,380 in 2007
- Has exceeded estimated growth through 2030
- 2007 data was comprised of 31.8% White, 67.0% African-American, and 1.1% Other
- The Hispanic-Latino population has increased from 273 in 2000 to 400 in 2007, a 46.5% change.

Labor Force

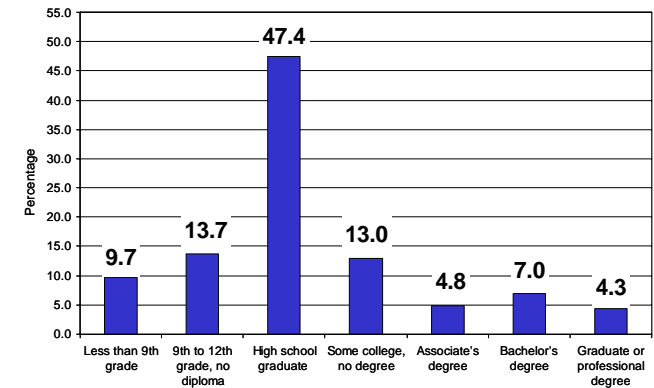
- Increased from 15,270 in 2007 to 15,480 in 2008
- Employment fell from 13,920 in 2007 to 13,830 in 2008.
- Unemployment rate climbed from 8.8% in 2007 to 10.7% in 2008.

Unemployment Rates for Williamsburg County
2004 - 2008



Educational Attainment

Williamsburg County 2007



Per Capita Income

- County per capita income was \$21,640 for 2007.
- This was 70% of the state's per capita income of \$31,100.
- This was 56% of the national per capita income of \$38,620.

Unemployment Insurance Benefits

The Kingstree Workforce Center, serving Williamsburg County, paid \$5,892,460 in regular unemployment insurance benefits during 2008.



SC Employment Security Commission
Labor Market Information

P O Box 995
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 737-2660 / FAX: (803) 737-2838
(800) 205-9290 (outside the Columbia area)

<http://www.sces.org/lmi>